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Preliminary Report

**U-2 RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS C045C, C055C
AND C065C FLOWN 19-24 FEBRUARY 1965**

NSA review(s) completed.

DST-

8 March 1965

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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Science and Technology**

**GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
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PREFACE

This preliminary technical evaluation of three U-2 reconnaissance missions flown over parts of south China, North Vietnam, and Laos between 19 and 24 February 1965 was developed for the 303 Committee by the following elements of the Directorate of Science and Technology:

Office of Scientific Intelligence

Office of Special Activities

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The evaluations are based on information and data provided by:

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National Photographic Interpretation Center, DDI

67th Technical Reconnaissance Squadron, Yokota, Japan

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Graphics support has been provided by the Office of Research and Reports of the Directorate of Intelligence.

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Preliminary Report

U-2 RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS C045C, C055C
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SUMMARY

This series of three U-2 reconnaissance missions ^{was} ~~were~~ flown over parts of southwest China and southeast Asia to provide up to date photographic coverage of priority COMOR targets. The first of these missions on 19 February operated from [redacted] while the remaining two flights on 22 and 24 February operated from [redacted]

There

Composite photographic coverage obtained from these high altitude

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missions included a total of 140 targets covered in near cloud-free photography. These included 38 high priority COMOR targets in southern China. Of interest was the coverage of two major operational jet fighter airfields in southwest China and the identification of two new major airfields under construction.

BACKGROUND

The three missions included in this report were flown on 19, 22, and 24 February 1965 primarily to cover COMOR targets in south China.

The missions were planned to select first and second priority targets which had no recent coverage and three first priority targets which had earlier coverage. Targets covered by previous Blue Spring missions very recently were not considered.

Mission C045C on 19 February 1965 departed

after covering 17

COMOR targets. The reason for the overflight of Vietnam by Mission C045C was due to inclement weather conditions over the previously planned penetration point east of Hainan Island.

Mission C055C on 22 February operated from

was programmed to cover 26 remaining targets in the area. The camera malfunctioned shortly after penetration of Communist China, and the

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pilot aborted the mission, returning to [] having covered only four (4) COMOR targets on the mission.

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Mission C065C on 24 February operated from [] was scheduled to cover the ^{remaining} eighteen targets missed on C055C. All but one of these targets were covered.

Excellent weather conditions were reported and no serious incidents occurred except the camera malfunction on Mission C055C.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

This mission covered a number of important targets in south China and northern Laos. A total of 55 targets, including 17 priority COMOR targets in south China, were reported in the preliminary interpretation report. All but three of these appeared in cloud-free photography. All targets in North Vietnam except one, a military area at Ha Giang, were under heavy cloud cover. Nine airfields, two naval bases, 18 ^{military 2} areas, ~~two~~ route areas, and 4 urban complexes were covered in south China, while 7 airfields, 8 military areas and 4 route areas in Laos were covered. Highlights of the mission included identification of 60 Fagot/Fresco aircraft at Mengtzu Airfield and the identification of an airfield undergoing renovation at Ping Yuan, northeast of Mengtzu. The runway at the latter is apparently being cleared and will be at least 7,000 feet in length. A photograph of this airfield is included with this report.

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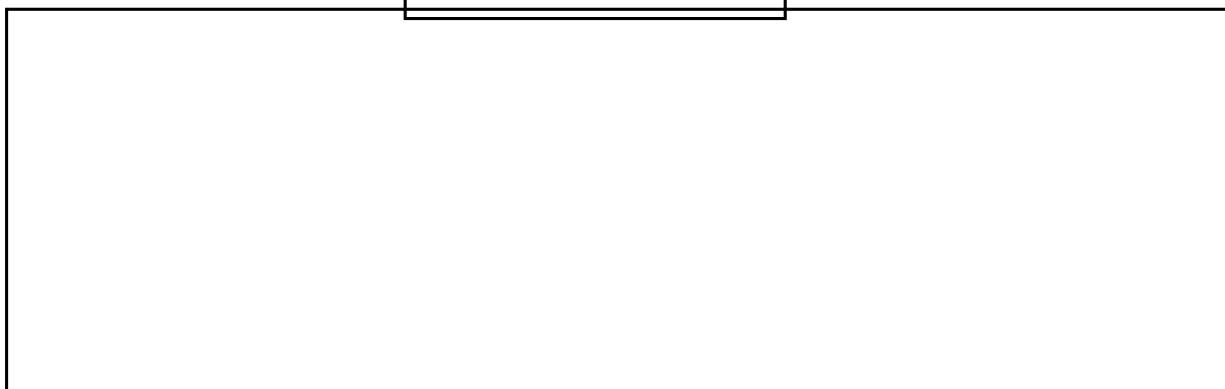
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PHOTOGRAPHY

Due to a malfunction of the "B" camera shortly after the mission penetrated into south China, only 4 COMOR targets and a small number of other targets were covered by the mission. A total of 19 targets were reported in the preliminary interpretation report. Twenty-two COMOR targets in south China, scheduled for coverage by the mission, were missed due to the abort. Those targets covered included 6 airfields and 7 military installations in Laos and 1 airfield, 1 radar site, and 4 other military areas in China. Overall cloud cover for the portion of the mission covered was approximately five percent.

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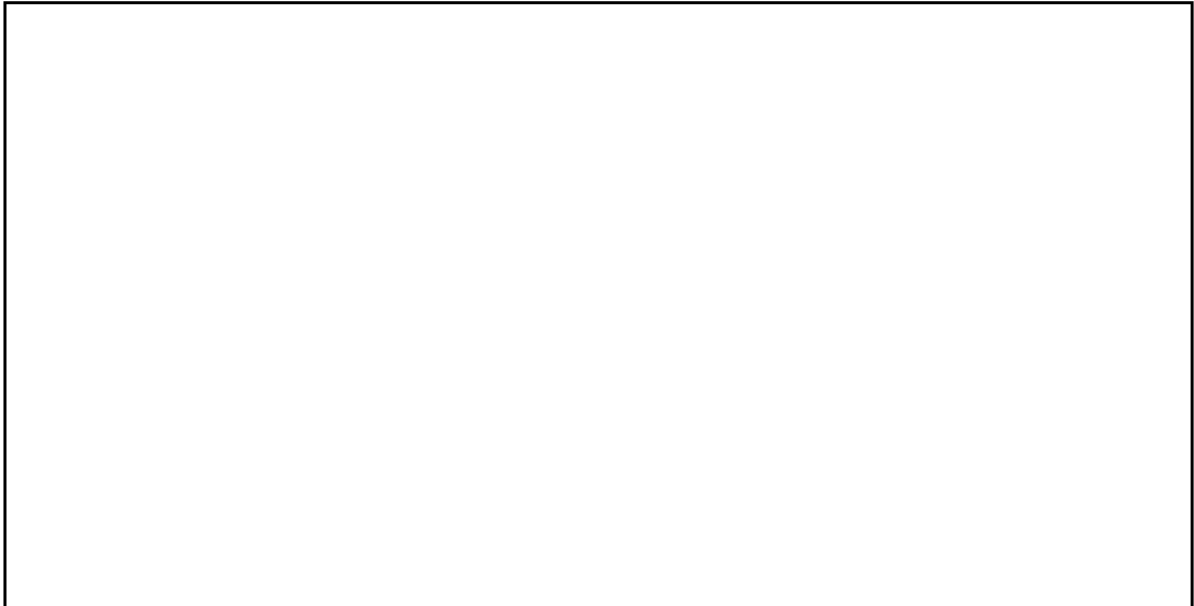
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PHOTOGRAPHY

The weather over the mainland was better than forecast during the pre-mission briefing. A total of 66 targets in Vietnam, Laos, and China were covered in cloud free photography. The mission covered 43 COMOR targets including 18 targets not covered by Mission C055C. One COMOR target was not covered due to cloud cover. The targets covered include 22 airfields, 38 military related areas and 6 miscellaneous targets. Of significance was the identification of 30 Fagot/Fresco and 1 Farmer (MiG-19) aircraft at Kunming Airfield. This number of aircraft is normal for this airfield and indicates that except for the one MiG-19, no new aircraft units have yet been moved to this location. A photograph of Kunming airfield is included with this report.

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GRAPHICS

Graphics included with this report will be as follows:

Figure 1 - Map of Mission Routes Flown

**Figure 2 - Photography of Ping-Yuan Airfield Under
Construction (C045C)**

Figure 3 - Photograph of Kunming Airfield (C065C)

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